United Nations E/2005/53

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 May 2005

Original: English

Substantive session of 2005
New York, 29 June-27 July 2005
Item 13 (m) of the provisional agenda*
Economic and environmental questions: transport of dangerous goods

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 645 G (XXIII), the Secretary-General reports biennially to the Council on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, and of its two subcommittees.

The present report concerns the work of the Committee of Experts during the biennium 2003-2004 and the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/64.

In accordance with that resolution, the secretariat has published the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*, the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria* and the first edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*.

All main legal instruments or codes governing the international transport of dangerous goods by sea, air, road, rail or inland waterway have been amended accordingly, with effect as from 1 January 2005, and many Governments have also

* E/2005/100.

05-33113 (E) 310505

transposed the provisions of the *Model Regulations* into their own legislation for domestic traffic for application as from 2005.

Many Governments and international organizations have taken steps to revise existing national and international legislation in order to implement the GHS by the recommended target date of 2008.

The Committee adopted amendments to the *Model Regulations* and the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, which consist mainly of new or revised provisions that concern the reporting of accidents; the classification of fireworks; harmonization with the GHS; the transport of infectious substances, radioactive material and environmentally hazardous substances: new dangerous substances and articles; the conditions of loading and transport operations; aerosol dispensers; and impact testing of portable tanks.

The Committee also adopted amendments to the GHS that consist mainly in the clarification of classification criteria for toxic substances, the addition of aspiration hazard criteria and the addition of guidance material for precautionary statements, safety data sheets and labelling.

The Committee adopted a programme of work for the biennium 2005-2006; sessions for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and for the Committee have been planned for the period 2005-2006 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65.

The Committee is recommending a draft resolution on its work for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council	1	4
II.	Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/64 of 25 July 2003	2–24	8
	A. Publications	2–6	8
	B. Implementation of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations	7–15	9
	C. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)	16–24	11
III.	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2003-2004	25–40	13
	A. Meetings held	25–31	13
	B. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	32–35	14
	C. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	36–40	15
IV.	Programme of work and schedule of meetings for the biennium 2005-2006	41–44	16

I. Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. **The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:**

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, 2001/34 of 26 July 2001, 2001/44 of 20 December 2001 and 2003/64 of 25 July 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals[1] during the biennium 2003-2004,

A

Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Committee for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

Bearing in mind the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport,

Noting the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into worldwide commerce, and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Recalling its resolution 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 whereby it requested the Committee to study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the then Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport which would take into account the general scope of a future convention on international intermodal transport,

Recalling also that in response to resolution 1973 (LIX) the Committee had, until now, been of the view that the consideration of such a convention would not be appropriate until the various international agreements or conventions governing international transport of dangerous goods had not been harmonized,

Noting that the major international instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by the various modes of transport (International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous

Goods by Air, European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail, European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway) and as many national regulations are now harmonized with the Model Regulations annexed to the Committee recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods, but that the lack of simultaneity in the updating process of national inland transport legislation in most countries of the world remains the major reason for regulatory disharmony at the worldwide level and represents a serious legislative obstacle to international multimodal transport,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with respect to matters relating to the transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations[2] on the transport of dangerous goods to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the fourteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*[3] and the amendments to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*[4] in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, no later than the end of 2005;

(c) To make those publications available on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe,[5] which also provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them available also on CD-ROM;

3. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other concerned international organizations to transmit to the secretariat of the Committee their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

4. *Also invites* all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned to take into account, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the Committee to study, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental organizations concerned, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of a convention on multimodal international transport of dangerous goods, or any other possibility of improving simultaneous implementation of the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in all countries for the purposes of ensuring a high level of safety and eliminating technical barriers to international trade;

B

Work of the Committee regarding the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Bearing in mind that the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of Implementation,[6] encouraged countries to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

Bearing also in mind that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and requested the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Plan relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination,

Noting with satisfaction:

(a) That all United Nations programmes and specialized agencies concerned with chemical safety in the field of transport or of the environment, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, have taken appropriate steps to amend or consider amending their legal instruments in order to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

(b) That the International Labour Office and the World Health Organization are also taking appropriate steps to adapt their existing chemical safety recommendations, codes and guidelines to the Globally Harmonized System, in particular in the areas of occupational health and safety and of the prevention and treatment of poisoning;

(c) That Member States participating in the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, as well as the European Commission, are actively preparing revisions of national or regional legislation applicable to chemicals for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

(d) That several United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and regional organizations, in particular the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Governments, the European Commission and non-governmental organizations representing the chemical industry, have organized or contributed to multiple workshops, seminars and other capacity-building activities at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in order to raise administration, health sector and industry awareness and to prepare for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals,

Aware that effective implementation by 2008 will require further cooperation between the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the international bodies concerned, continued efforts by the Governments of the Member States, cooperation with the

industry and other affected parties, and significant support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition and developing countries,

Recalling the particular significance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Organization/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for building capacities at all levels,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)* in the six official languages of the United Nations, in book form[7] and on CD-ROM,[8] and the availability of that and related material on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe;[5]

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Committee, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation and their commitment to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the amendments[9] to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the first revised edition[10] of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* in all the official languages of the United Nations in the most cost-effective manner no later than the end of 2005, and to make it available on CD-ROM and on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe,[5] which provides secretariat services to the Committee;

4. *Invites* Governments who have not yet done so to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, as recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, workplace safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals through such instruments;

6. *Invites* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feedback on implementation to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

7. *Encourages* Governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular industry, to strengthen their support of the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals by providing financial contributions and/or technical assistance to capacity-building activities in developing countries and to countries in transition;

C

Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2005-2006 as contained in paragraphs 41 to 42 of the present report,

Noting the relatively poor representation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee and the need to ensure their wider participation in its work,

Noting with concern that the General Service staff resources requested for the activities of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals when it was established and which had been provided through general temporary assistance until end 2004 were suppressed in 2004, irrespective of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session,[11]

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of experts from developing countries as well as from countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, and calls, in that regard, for voluntary contributions to facilitate their participation, including through support for travel and daily subsistence allowance, and invites Member States and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reallocate appropriate General Service staff resources for the activities of the Committee;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2005 on the implementation of the present resolution, the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

II. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/64 of 25 July 2003

A. Publications

2. As requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/64, the Secretary-General prepared the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*[12] The edition was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (240 copies), Chinese (125 copies), English (4,440 copies), French (905 copies), Russian (260 copies) and Spanish (450 copies).

3. The fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*[13] was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (220 copies), Chinese (125 copies), English (3,965 copies), French (805 copies), Russian (200 copies) and Spanish (400 copies).

4. The first edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*,[7] was published for official circulation and sale in Arabic (245 copies), Chinese (160 copies), English (2,450 copies), French (780 copies), Russian (215 copies) and Spanish (445 copies).

5. Combined versions of the *Model Regulations* and the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*[14] and of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* and the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*[8] were also published for sale (bilingual, English and French) on CD-ROM, and are available in all official languages upon request.

6. The *Model Regulations* and the *GHS* are available online in all languages on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).[5]

B. Implementation of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations

7. In its resolution 2003/64, the Economic and Social Council invited all interested Governments, regional commissions and specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to consider taking into account the recommendations of the Committee.

8. The provisions of the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*[12] have been incorporated in the following international instruments:

(a) International Maritime Organization (IMO): International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (amendment 32-04, of mandatory application for the 155 contracting parties to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS 74) as from 1 January 2006);

(b) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO): 2005 edition of the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (mandatory application for the 188 contracting parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation as from 1 January 2005);

(c) International Air Transport Association (IATA): 2005 (forty-sixth) edition of the Dangerous Goods Regulations (applicable as from 1 January 2005);

(d) Economic Commission for Europe: European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR 2005) (as from 1 July 2005) (40 contracting parties);

(e) Economic Commission for Europe: European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN 2005), for application as from 1 January 2005;

(f) Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF): Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by

Rail (RID 2005) (annex I to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail) (applicable as from 1 January 2005) (42 contracting parties).

9. In the member States of the European Union, the provisions of ADR 2005 and RID 2005 will also apply to domestic traffic as from 1 July 2005.

10. The Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) are still working on the updating of the agreement on the inland transport of dangerous goods (*Acuerdo sobre Transporte de Mercancías Peligrosas en el MERCOSUR*, 1994), which is based on the seventh revised edition[15] of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, RID and ADR.

11. The Andean Community (*Comunidad Andina*) (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) have developed draft regulations based on the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*, the ADR 2005 and the RID 2005, for public enquiry until May 2005.

12. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific published, in 1997, *Guidelines for the Establishment of National and Regional Systems for Inland Transportation of Dangerous Goods*,[16] recommending the implementation of the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods. The transport ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed, on 20 September 2002, Protocol No. 9 to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit. The Protocol provides for the simplification of procedures and requirements for the transit transport of dangerous goods in ASEAN countries, using the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations* and the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Goods by Road.

13. In 1999 the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon) adopted regulations concerning the transport of dangerous goods that are partly based on old provisions of the ADR but that are not fully in line with the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*.

14. With respect to domestic inland transport of dangerous goods in individual countries, except as described above, implementation of the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods may vary considerably depending on the national procedures for enacting law or updating regulations. For example, the regulations applicable in the United States of America (Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations) are normally updated on a yearly basis, and they have been updated to reflect the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, with very few exceptions. The Canadian regulations are still based on the eleventh revised edition.[17] The *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail* (1998 version) is based on the ninth revised edition of the *Recommendations*,[18] but an additional version, based on the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations* is under consideration. The twelfth revised edition[19] of the *Recommendations* has been adopted as a national standard in Malaysia and is being implemented through national legislation in Thailand.

15. Although international transport of dangerous goods is facilitated by the harmonization of the major international conventions or agreements concerning

transport of dangerous goods with the Model Regulations, and their simultaneous updating, the fact that certain national regulations applicable to inland transport are not brought into line simultaneously, or completely, is still causing problems in international trade, in particular in the case of multimodal transport. For that reason, the Committee included in its draft programme of work an item on options to facilitate global harmonization of regulations on the transport of dangerous goods with the Model Regulations, including consideration of the possibility of developing a world convention for the international transport of dangerous goods (see para. 41 (a) (ix)).

C. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

16. The World Summit on Sustainable Development at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of implementation,[6] encouraged countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008.

17. Since the GHS addresses several sectors (transport, consumers occupational health and safety, environment), its effective implementation requires significant efforts from Member States for amending many existing legal texts concerning chemical safety in each sector, or enacting new legislation.

18. As the GHS was published in 2003, with 2008 as the recommended implementation deadline, it is too early to evaluate precisely to what extent it has been implemented worldwide.

19. In the transport sector, the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations* have already been amended to reflect the relevant GHS provisions, and it is expected that all major international instruments listed in paragraph 8 will be amended accordingly for effective application in 2007, and that all national regulations which are based on these instruments, or which are regularly updated on the basis of the Model Regulations, will also be amended accordingly for application in 2007.

20. In the other sectors, the situation is more complex because implementation will require the amendment or revision of a considerable number of different legal texts and guidelines for application. Time will also be needed for classifying chemical products according to the new criteria, issuing new material safety data sheets, training workers and raising consumers' awareness.

21. In 2003 and 2004, the main implementation activities consisted in the organization, by most members of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Subcommittee) and by non-governmental organizations participating in its work, of numerous national awareness-raising workshops for management, industry and workers, which were also intended to plan policy and law changes and to initiate training activities.

22. The review of existing legislation has been initiated in all countries which are members of the GHS Subcommittee, and for the European Union, by the European Commission. Some members of the GHS Subcommittee provided direct technical

advice and expertise to other Member States that are not members of the Subcommittee.

23. With the financial support of several Member States, the European Commission and of the private sector, several additional capacity-building and training activities were carried out, with participation of experts of the GHS Subcommittee, by various organizations or programmes, in particular:

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research/International Labour Organization (UNITAR/ILO) Global GHS Capacity-Building Programme and World Summit for Sustainable Development Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to implement the GHS:

- Workshop in Zambia for 14 countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- Workshop in Brazil for MERCOSUR and Andean Community countries;
- Development of national GHS action plans in pilot countries (Senegal, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zambia) and technical assistance (ILO) to Fiji and Guyana;
- Survey of capacity-building needs for all developing countries and 17 countries in Asia and the Pacific;
- Workshop on GHS during the fourth session of the Intergovermental Forum on Chemical Safety (which also adopted a plan of action for implementation of the GHS);
- Development of a roster of GHS experts (in cooperation with the secretariat of the GHS Subcommittee);
- Establishment of a GHS capacity-building programme advisory group, the meetings of which are held back-to-back with those of the GHS Subcommittee;

(b) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):

- Various workshops and seminars for all APEC member States, and monitoring of implementation;

(c) World Health Organization/International Labour Organization/United Nations Environment Programme (WHO/ILO/UNEP) International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS):

- International workshop on the GHS for first aid and poison centres;
- Adaptation of the IPCS/ILO International Chemical Control Toolkit to the GHS;
- Review of the Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (ICADS), the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard,[20] and the International Chemical Safety Cards;

(d) The Baltic Environment Forum (one workshop for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)).

24. The GHS Subcommittee has also established cooperation with treaty bodies that administer certain international conventions dealing with specific aspects of

chemical safety in order to facilitate the implementation of the GHS through such conventions (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention); Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer), and such cooperation has also been initiated for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (see also para. 39).

III. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2003-2004

A. Meetings held

25. The following meetings were held during the biennium 2003-2004:

(a) Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: twenty-third session, 30 June to 4 July 2003 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/46 and Add.1); twenty-fourth session, 3 to 10 December 2003 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/48 and Add.1); twenty-fifth session, 5 to 14 July 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/50 and Add.1); and twenty-sixth session, 29 November to 7 December 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/52);

(b) Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: fifth session, 7 to 9 July 2003 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/10); sixth session, 10 to 12 December 2003 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/12); seventh session, 14 to 16 July 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/14); and eighth session, 7 to 9 December 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/16);

(c) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: second session, 10 December 2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/32 and Add.1-3).

26. The following 34 countries participated in the work of the Committee as full members of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Subcommittee), of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Subcommittee), or of both subcommittees: Argentina; Australia; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Canada; China; Czech Republic; Denmark;[21] Finland; France; Germany; Greece;[21] India;[22] Iran (Islamic Republic of); Ireland;[21] Italy; Japan; Mexico;[22] Morocco; Netherlands; New Zealand;[21] Norway; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Russian Federation;[22] Senegal;[21] Serbia and Montenegro;[21] South Africa; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and United States of America.

27. Morocco, full member of the TDG Subcommittee, and Qatar and Ukraine, full members of the GHS Subcommittee, did not participate.

28. The Governments of Algeria,[22] the Bahamas,[22] Bulgaria, Republic of Korea,[21] Romania, Slovenia,[21] Switzerland, Thailand,[21] Tunisia[22] and Zambia[21] were represented by observers. The Commission of the European Communities, 13

specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations and 39 non-governmental organizations also participated.

29. Liaison was maintained with the international bodies or organizations responsible for individual modes of transport, in particular the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (for inland transport in those regions), the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail.

30. The Committee paid special attention to the coordination of its own activities with those of other international organizations whose activities impinge on the field of transport of dangerous goods or of classification of chemicals, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), ILO, WHO, UNEP, UNITAR and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to ensure that their work would complement, rather than duplicate or clash with, its own activities and recommendations.

31. Secretariat services were provided by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe.

B. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

32. During the biennium 2003-2004, the Subcommittee discussed various questions related to its terms of reference in accordance with the programme of work described in Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/64, part C, paragraph 2, and document E/2003/46, paragraph 29 (a).

33. On the basis of that work, the Committee adopted amendments[2] to the thirteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations* and to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria* consisting mainly of new or revised provisions concerning:

(a) The reporting of accidents and incidents;

(b) The classification of fireworks for transport;

(c) The harmonization of the Model Regulations with the GHS;

(d) The transport of infectious substances;

(e) The harmonization of the Model Regulations with the IAEA regulations for the safe transport of radioactive material;

(f) The listing and classification of some existing and new dangerous substances and articles and related packing methods and the revision of some packing requirements;

(g) The transport conditions for substances hazardous to the aquatic environment;

(h) The general provisions applicable to loading of dangerous goods and transport operations;

(i) The testing of aerosol dispensers;

(j) The impact testing of portable tanks.

34. The Subcommittee considered that its work on guiding principles for the Model Regulations, evaluation of United Nations packaging requirements and transport of dangerous goods in limited quantities should be pursued in the biennium 2005-2006, and that the work on standardization of emergency measures should be discontinued.

35. **The action to be taken by the Economic and Social Council, recommended by the Committee with respect to the work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, is reflected in part A, operative paragraphs 1 to 5, of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**

C. Work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

36. During the biennium 2003-2004, the Subcommittee discussed various questions related to its terms of reference in accordance with its programme of work described in resolution 2003/64, part C, paragraph 2 and document E/2003/46, paragraph 29 (b).

37. On the basis of that work, the Committee adopted amendments[9] to the first version of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals intended to clarify or to complement it, concerning the following in particular:

(a) Clarification of the criteria for acute toxicity, reproductive toxicity and target organ systemic toxicity;

(b) New criteria for aspiration hazards;

(c) Guidance for the use of precautionary statements and precautionary pictograms;

(d) Guidance for the preparation of safety data sheets;

(e) Additional guidance for labelling and new pictogram for organic peroxides.

38. The Subcommittee kept under review progress made in the implementation of the GHS on the basis of reports submitted by its members and participating intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

39. The Subcommittee initiated cooperation with treaty bodies established under international conventions concerning chemical safety to promote the implementation of the GHS through such conventions (see also para. 24).

40. **The action to be taken by the Economic and Social Council, recommended by the Committee with respect to the work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, is reflected in part B, operative paragraphs 1 to 7 of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**

IV. Programme of work and schedule of meetings for the biennium 2005-2006

41. The Committee agreed that the programme of work for the biennium 2005-2006 should be as follows:

(a) Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods:

(i) Transport of gases (harmonization and standardization);

(ii) Explosives (test series 8);

(iii) Listing, classification and harmonization with the GHS (including list of aquatic pollutants);

(iv) Packagings (including packaging performance and review of Chapter 6.3);

(v) Limited quantities;

(vi) Cooperation with IAEA;

(vii) Improvement of hazard communication;

(viii) Guiding principles for the Model Regulations;

(ix) Options to facilitate global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the Model Regulations and their implementation, including a world convention for the international transport of dangerous goods;

(x) Miscellaneous amendments to the Model Regulations, as necessary;

(b) Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:

(i) Work on health hazards

a. Pursue work on classification criteria for substances which, in contact with water, release toxic/corrosive gases;

b. Continue the work on toxic gas mixtures (TGM) (in cooperation with OECD);

c. Examine the issue of sensitization/induction/elicitation and propose amendments to the criteria as appropriate (in cooperation with OECD);

d. Continue to examine the available information concerning strong versus weak sensitizers and, if appropriate, propose revisions to the classification criteria for respiratory and/or dermal sensitization (in cooperation with OECD);

e. Pursue work on carcinogenicity potency estimation (in cooperation with OECD);

f. Pursue work on developing guidance on the importance of different factors concerning criteria for carcinogenicity (in cooperation with OECD);

g. Pursue work on amending the classification criteria for "toxic to reproduction" to develop guidance on appropriate parameters on relative potency of a chemical (in cooperation with OECD);

(ii) Work on environmental hazards

a. Pursue work to improve further the classification scheme on chronic aquatic toxicity hazards (in cooperation with OECD);

b. Continue to develop criteria for the classification and labelling of environmental terrestrial hazards;

c. Examine possibilities of developing classification criteria for ozone-depleting substances in cooperation with the Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (in cooperation with OECD);

d. Complete work on validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol for metals (in cooperation with OECD);

(iii) Work on hazard communication issues

a. Develop guidance on the interpretation of the building-block approach;

b. Discuss the need, and if appropriate develop a proposal, for a hierarchy of labelling elements for chemicals presenting multiple hazards;

(iv) Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

a. Initiate activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in Member Countries;

b. Cooperate with the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concern;

c. Cooperate with intergovernmental bodies responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with chemical management issues, in order to work out ways to give effect to the GHS through such instruments;

d. Review reports on training and capacity-building activities;

e. Provide assistance to United Nations programmes and specialized agencies involved in training and capacity-building activities, such as UNITAR, ILO and WHO/IPCS, through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources;

f. Explore a working relationship with WHO/IPCS to assist implementation of the GHS in relevant activities and instruments among global health partners.

42. Bearing in mind that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65, the maximum number of meeting days allocated to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies is 38 (76 meetings), the Committee agreed that the schedule of meetings for the period 2005-2006 should be as follows:

2005

4-8 July 2005: TDG Subcommittee: 10 meetings

11-13 (a.m.) July 2005: GHS Subcommittee: 5 meetings

28 November-7 December 2005: TDG Subcommittee: 15 meetings

7 (p.m.)-9 December 2005: GHS Subcommittee: 5 meetings

(Total: TDG Subcommittee: 25 meetings; GHS Subcommittee: 10 meetings)

2006

3-12 (a.m.) July 2006: TDG Subcommittee: 15 meetings

12 (p.m.)-14 July 2006: GHS Subcommittee: 5 meetings

4-12 (a.m.) December 2006: TDG Subcommittee: 13 meetings

12 (p.m.)-14 December 2006: GHS Subcommittee: 5 meetings

15 December 2006: Committee: 2 meetings

(Total: TDG Subcommittee: 28 meetings; GHS Subcommittee: 10 meetings; Committee: 2 meetings)

43. For the Secretariat resources allocated to the work of the GHS Subcommittee, the Committee noted that the General Service staff resources that were requested when the GHS Subcommittee was established were discontinued in 2004, and reflected its concerns in part C of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report, which requests in its operative paragraph 3 that those resources be reallocated. **In this respect, the Economic and Social Council may wish to note that those resources were, until 2004, provided through general temporary assistance. The provision of such resources was discontinued in 2004, owing to the combined effects of General Assembly resolution 58/270 of 23 December 2003 whereby it was decided (para. 26) to abolish three General Service posts in the Economic Commission for Europe and (para. 28) to reduce the provision for general temporary assistance.**

44. **Action to be taken by the Economic and Social Council, recommended by the Committee with respect to its programme of work, is reflected in part C, operative paragraphs 1 to 3, of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the present report.**

Notes

[1] E/2005/53.

[2] ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.1 and Add.2.

[3] ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14.

[4] ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4.

[5] http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.E.25 and Corr.1.

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.03.0.22.

[9] ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.3.

[10] ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1.

[11] E/2003/46, para. 33.

[12] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.VIII.5 and Corr.1.

[13] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.VIII.2.

[14] United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.03.VIII.6.

[15] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.VIII.2.

[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.II.F.49.

[17] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.VIII.1 and corrigenda.

[18] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.VIII.1.

[19] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.VIII.4 and corrigenda.

[20] See *The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification, 2004* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2005).

[21] GHS Subcommittee only.

[22] TDG Subcommittee only.